

# **Open Access and Scholarly Communications**

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# Scholarly Communications

- ...is the system through which research and other scholarly writings are created, evaluated for quality, disseminated to the scholarly community, and preserved for future use. The system includes both formal means of communication, such as publication in peer-reviewed journals, and informal channels such as electronic listservs.

<http://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu/>

# Open Access Journal Movement

- What is it?
  - Open access is cost-effective way to disseminate and use information.

*OA permits users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to full texts, crawl for indexing, pass them as data, or use them for any lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers*
  - OA operates within current legal framework of copyright law
  - OA is intended to be free for readers, not for producers
  - OA focuses on academic research, has peer review

# Open Access Movement

- Why does it exist?
  - Society benefits from open exchange of ideas
  - Access to copyrighted materials inspires creativity and facilitates the development of new knowledge
  - Federal investment in R&D is leveraged by access to research results

# Implementing OA

- Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI, Dec. 2001)  
recommends two strategies: self-archiving in institutional/  
disciplinary repositories and open access journals. Over 5,500  
signatures. <http://www.soros.org/openaccess/>
- SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic  
Resources Coalition, 1998) <http://www.arl.org/sparc/>  
promotes both open access journals and the development of  
institutional repositories. SPARC has a number of open access  
partners

# Balancing the Publishing System

# Faculty Perspectives

*“When I write a paper, I put it on my Web site and it might get 5 million hits. If it’s really good and I send it to a leading journal in my field that prints 16,000 copies and I’m supposed to take it off my Web site. In what universe does that make sense?”*

<http://www.arl.org/sparc/innovator/harvardfas.shtml>

# Author Rights

- Managing personal copyrights
  - Negotiating with publishers
  - Attaching addendum to transfer agreements
  - Assigning Creative Commons licenses
- Author-rights language in university-wide site licenses for content
  - Springer and Max Planck Society, University of California and MIT



# OA Initiatives

- Public Library of Science (PLOS)

grassroots initiative signed by over 30,000 scientists to encourage open access publishing. Operate 7 online peer-reviewed scientific and medical journals.

<http://www.publiclibraryofscience.org/>

- PubMed Central

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/>

digital archive of life sciences journal literature developed, managed, supported by National Center for Biotechnology Information at NLM

- BioMed Central

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/>

independent commercial publishing house committed to providing immediate free access to peer-reviewed biomedical research. BMC publishes more than 200 online journals in biology and medicine. Part of Springer Science (2009).

- arXiv.org e-Print archive

<http://www.arxiv.org/>

fully automated electronic archive and distribution server for preprints in physics and related disciplines, mathematics, computer science, and cognitive science.

# Public Access to Research

- NIH <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/>

Public Access Policy requires research be made openly available in PubMed Central

- National Center for Atmospheric Research

<http://opensky.library.ucar.edu/policy/>

NSF sponsored lab requires scientists make their research openly available in their institutional repository

- HHMI <http://www.hhmi.org/>

“require its scientists to publish their original research articles in scientific journals that allow the articles and supplementary materials to be made freely accessible in a public repository within six months of publication.”

- Wellcome Trust <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk>

First funding agency requiring open access to funded research output

- FRPAA <http://cornyn.senate.gov/index.asp?f=record&lid=&rid=237171>

Act last introduced in the Senate 6/09 requiring nonclassified research arising from grants funding by 11 government agencies be made openly available, including NSF, DoD, DoE, and NASA.

# University OA Funds

- Berkeley Research Impact Initiative

“supports faculty members, post-docs, and graduate students who want to make their journal articles free to all readers immediately upon publication.” <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/brii/>

- Harvard <http://osc.hul.harvard.edu/HOPE/>

- Cornell <http://www.library.cornell.edu/compact/>

- Compact for Open-Access Publishing Equity  
signed by MIT, Harvard, Berkeley, Cornell and  
Dartmouth

# University OA Policies

- MIT
- Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences, February 2008
  - Provost Stephen Hyman created the Committee on Scholarly Publishing, chaired by Stuart Shieber
  - Harvard Law adopted a similar policy in Spring 2008
  - Shieber became director of Office of Scholarly Communication
- Stanford School of Education, June 2008
  - John Willinsky, Professor of Education, proposed the motion

# University OA Policy - MIT

- “The Faculty of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is committed to disseminating the fruits of its research and scholarship as widely as possible.”
- Automatic license with opt-out (requested by faculty)
- First U.S. university-wide OA policy
- Author grants MIT a non-exclusive license to make research openly available
- The policy applies only to scholarly articles completed after the policy was adopted on March 18, 2009
- Provost’s office makes the author’s final manuscript OA in Library-hosted institutional repository

<http://info-libraries.mit.edu/scholarly/faculty-and-researchers/mit-faculty-open-access-policy/>

# Questions

- What is your understanding of OA?
- What is your experience with OA?
- Opinions? Is your perspective typical of your college or school?